

Appln. No.: 09/945,228
Amdt. Dated: January 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 9/17/03

REMARKS

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Applicant has amended Claim 10 (now part of new Claim 14 and part of dependent Claim 20) to remove the word "product" and replace it with "heads." Applicant respectfully submits that such amendment eliminates the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for identifying this error in Claim 10.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over applicant's Disclosure of Admitted Prior Art in view of Bitners et al. or Wu. The Examiner stated that the references are being applied for the same combined reasons as set forth in the previous Office Action.

The Examiner stated that Claims 2 and 6-12 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, in this case, Claim 1.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant cancelled, without prejudice, Claims 1, 2, and 6-12. (Claims 3-5 and 13 were previously cancelled.) Applicant is not canceling or abandoning any invention thereof.

Applicant has redrafted Claim 1 as new Claim 14 and has presented it in Markush format where the members of the Markush group are the recitations presented in canceled Claims 2 and 6-12. Applicant has also presented new Claims 15- 22 dependent from Claim 14 wherein each of Claims 15- 22 recite one of the members of the Markush group of new Claim 14.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant has presented the claims objected to by the Examiner in a form now ready for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered in that Applicant has

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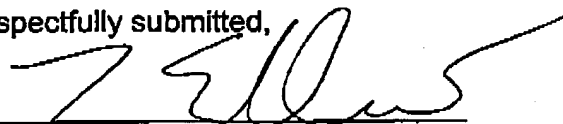
complied with the Examiner's statement that Claims 2 and 6-12 would be allowable if written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant reserves the right to continue to prosecute Claim 1 in a continuation patent application. Applicant, respectfully, does not agree with the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1 as presented in the Office Actions in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not *prima facie* obvious and is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant did not read limitations from the specification into the claims. When Applicant referred to HCN in his response to the previous Office Action, Applicant was pointing out that his claimed process has the advantage of permitting the operation of the heads column with lower rates of HCN polymerization and thus, lower rates of fouling. Applicant made the amendments as shown above to correct the matter under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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